Problem faced by Small and Medium iron ore mining operators

2709. SHRI R.C. SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the iron ore reserves, State-wise;

(b) the details of the iron ore reserves under the control of Government and private sector, State-wise;

(c) whether it is a fact that small and medium iron ore mining operators are facing problems in view of futures trade in this sector; and

(d) if so, whether Government is planning to address the concerns of small and medium operators?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) State-wise information on reserves/resources of iron ore is given in the Indian Minerals Year Book, published by the Indian Bureau of Mines. A copy of this book has been supplied to the Parliament Library.

(b) The estimated reserves of iron ore in public leasehold and private sector leasehold areas as on 1.4.2005 are 5484.81 and 3976.11 million tonnes respectively.

(c) and (d) No reports on problems of small and medium iron ore miners due to future trade in the sector have come to the notice of the Government. However, the National Mineral Policy 2008 enunciates that efforts would be made to grant mineral concessions to consortia of small scale miners so that such clusters of small deposits will enable them to reap the benefits of economies of scale.

Mineral deposits in Assam and NER

2710. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of mines of various minerals identified in Assam and North Eastern Region (NER) during the last three years;

(b) whether there are more potential mineral reserves in Assam which are yet to be mined and exploited;

(c) whether Government has successfully overcome the problem of open cast mining in the region;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether Government is aware of the fact that a big power project is being established over the biggest Asian deposits of lime stone in Assam; and

(f) if so, the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) As per available information details of exploration activities are given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) As per available information, all the mines in North Eastern region except Sikkim are open cast mines and there are no problems with open cast mining in NER.

(e) and (f) Information is being collected and shall be laid on the Table of the House.